

March 7, 1978

LS 889

SENATOR COPE: In other words where it has less General Funds and so forth, that is taken from the above here, is that....

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct.

SENATOR COPE: I wanted to be sure. So, how much will this change, and I probably should ask Senator Lewis, this \$837,000 change with his amendment?

SENATOR KOCH: What Senator Lewis was doing with the second amendment was to put it in a grant form to those schools who are going to develop these programs. It would be a grant of money based upon last years ADM, so that we do it just like we do 403 so we could carry through the same type of funding based on last years ADM and those costs and that is what those schools would be assured of next year, say the program was in place now. Next year the schools would know that we would be funding up to their last years cost.

SENATOR COPE: In other words that wouldn't change this figure too much then.

SENATOR KOCH: We don't anticipate that it would, because I am a little skeptical about this figure, Senator Cope, because I just don't believe that the schools are going to be able to meet all of the obligations this first year. I think that is all on speculations that they would indeed screen and identify and provide programs for the number of children which we anticipate.

SENATOR COPE: The last question, I want to be sure, this is not a shall proposition. This they may comply with the districts, is that correct?

SENATOR KOCH: No, Senator Cope. The conditions are this, the schools shall and the parents may.

SENATOR COPE: I see, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, I just want to support this concept. I think it's something we really need, if you can't help these kids before they are in school, I think that you have lost a lot of time and the parents that I have visited with and have written to me about it are very much concerned about training and getting some information. I believe that it is a good idea that one amendment that Senator Lewis had that would help parents cope with this problem, train them to know how to handle these children would be as important as anything we can do. I think that the service units will be able to help the schools with this and I think that the Meyer Center and also what we are trying to do out at Cozad will help a great deal also. I certainly support this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Callan.